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REVISED

Incident Response Groupe

Groupe d'intervenrtion en cas d'incident

Minutes

A virtual meeting of the Incident Response Group was held on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

Procès-verbal

Une réunion virtuelle du Groupe d'intervention en cas d'incident a eu lieu le samedi 12 février 2022 à 15h30.

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Present

The Prime Minister
*(Mr. Trudeau),
in the Chair,
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Finance
*(Ms. Freeland),
The Minister of Intergovernmental
Affairs, Infrastructure and
Communities
*(Mr. LeBlanc),
The President of the Queen’s Privy Council
for Canada and Minister of Emergency
Preparedness
*(Mr. Blair),
The Minister of Justice and Attorney
General of Canada
*(Mr. Lametti),
The Minister of Public Safety
(Mr. Mendicino),
The Minister of National Defence
*(Ms. Anand),
The Minister of Transport
*(Mr. Alghabra),

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Also present

Mr. J. Innes
(Office of the Minister of
Intergovernmental Affairs,
Infrastructure and Communities),
Ms. L. Church
(Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance),
Mr. A. Steinhouse
(Office of the Minister of Justice and
Attorney General of Canada),
Mr. M. Maka
(Office of the Minister of Transport),
Mr. M. Power
(Office of the Minister of National
Defence),
Ms. Z. Astravas
(Office of the President of the Queen’s
Privy Council for Canada and Minister
of Emergency Preparedness),
Mr. M. Jones
(Office of the Minister of Public
Safety),
Mr. M. Sabia
(Finance Canada),
Mr. F. Daigle
(Justice Canada),
Mr. M. Keenan
(Transport Canada),
Mr. R. Stewart
(Public Safety Canada),

Étaient présents

Le Premier ministre
*(M. Trudeau),
Président,
La vice-première ministre et ministre
des Finances
*(Mme Freeland),
Le ministre des Affaires
Intergouvernementales, de l’Infrastructure et
des Collectivités
*(M. LeBlanc),
Le président du Conseil privé de la Reine
pour le Canada et ministre de la
Protection civile
*(M. Blair),
Le ministre de la Justice et procureur général
du Canada
*(M. Lametti),
Le ministre de la Sécurité publique
*(M. Mendicino),
La ministre de la Défense nationale
*(Mme Anand),
Le ministre des Transports
*(M. Alghabra),

*Appareil sécur

Étaient aussi présents

Mr. J. Innes
(Cabinet du ministre des Affaires
Intergouvernementales, de l’Infrastructure
et des Collectivités),
Mme L. Church
(Cabinet de la vice-première ministre et
ministre des Finances),
M. A. Steinhouse
(Cabinet du ministre de la Justice et
procureur général du Canada),
M. M. Maka
(Cabinet du ministre des Transports),
M. M. Power
(Cabinet de la ministre de la Défense
nationale),
Mme Z. Astravas
(Cabinet du président du Conseil privé de la
Reine pour le Canada et ministre de la
Protection civile),
M. M. Jones
(Cabinet du ministre de la Sécurité
publique),
M. M. Sabia
(Finances Canada),
M. F. Daigle
(Justice Canada),
M. M. Keenan
(Transports Canada),
M. R. Stewart
(Sécurité publique Canada),

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C O N F I D E N C E O F T H E Q U E E N , S P R I V Y C O U N C I L	<u>Also present</u> (Cont'd)	<u>Étaient aussi présents</u> (suite)	D O C U M E N T C O N F I D E N T I E L D U C O N S E I L P R I V É D E L A R E I N E
	Mr. W. Eyre	M. W. Eyre	
	Mr. B. Matthews	M. B. Matthews	
	(National Defence),	(Défense nationale),	
	Mr. J. Ossowski	M. J. Ossowski	
	(Canadian Border Services Agency),	(Agence des services frontaliers du Canada),	
	Mr. D. Vignault	M. D. Vignault	
	(Canadian Security Intelligence Service),	(Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité),	
	Ms. B. Lucki	Mme B. Lucki	
	(Royal Canadian Mounted Police),	(Gendarmerie royale du Canada),	
	Ms. K. Telford	Mme K. Telford	
	Mr. J. Broadhurst	M. J. Broadhurst	
	Mr. B. Clow	M. B. Clow	
	Mr. J. Brodhead	M. J. Brodhead	
	Ms. S. Khalil	Mme S. Khalil	
	Mr. B. Chin	M. B. Chin	
	Mr. P. Proulx	M. P. Proulx	
	Mr. C. Ahmed	M. C. Ajmed	
	Ms. M. Michel	Mme M. Michel	
	(Prime Minister's Office),	(Cabinet du premier ministre),	
	Mr. K. MacKillop	M. K. MacKillop	
	Ms. L. Setlakwe	Mme L. Setlakwe	
	Ms. J. Bogden	Mme J. Bogden	
	Mr. M. Vandergrift	M. M. Vandergrift	
	Mr. M. MacDonald	M. M. MacDonald	
	Mr. J. Hutchison	M. J. Hutchison	
	Ms. L. Baird	Mme L. Baird	
	Mr. D. MacGillivray	M. D. MacGillivray	
	Ms. I. Neville	Mme I. Neville	
	Ms. N. Boilard	Mme N. Boilard	
	Mr. J. Waring	M. J. Waring	
	Ms. S. Sortland	Mme S. Sortland	
	Ms. K. Levesque	Mme K. Levesque	
	Mr. D. Vanderlip	M. D. Vanderlip	
	Mr. J. Moran	M. J. Moran	
	(Privy Council Office),	(Bureau du Conseil privé),	
	Interim Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet (Ms. J. Charette).	La greffière intérimaire du Conseil privé et secrétaire du Cabinet (Mme J. Charette).	
	The Deputy Clerk and Associate Secretary to the Cabinet (Ms. N. Drouin).	La Sous-greffière et secrétaire associée du Cabinet (Mme N. Drouin).	
	National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister (Ms. J. Thomas).	Conseillère à la sécurité nationale et au renseignement auprès du Premier ministre (Mme J. Thomas).	
	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Secrétaire</u>	
	Mr. S. Tupper (Privy Council Office).	M. S. Tupper (Bureau du Conseil privé).	
	<u>Recording Secretary</u>	<u>Secrétaire de séance</u>	
	Ms. A. Davis (Privy Council Office).	Mme A. Davis (Bureau du Conseil privé).	



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AVIS AUX MINISTRES / ADVICE TO MINISTERS NE
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INCIDENT
RESPONSE
GROUP

February 12, 2022
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Secure VTC

AGENDA

- 1. Strategic Situational Overview
- 2. Operational Updates
 - a. Ports of Entry
 - b. Ottawa
 - c. Other Critical Infrastructure
- 3. Engagement Strategy
- 4. Communications
- 5. Wrap-up

GROUPE
D’INTERVENTION
EN CAS D’INCIDENT

Le 12 février 2022
15h30 – 17h00

Vidéoconférence sécurisée

ORDRE DU JOUR

- 1. Aperçu de la situation stratégique
- 2. Mise à jour sur les opérations
 - a. Points d’entrée
 - b. Ottawa
 - c. Autres Infrastructures essentielles
- 3. Stratégie de mobilisation
- 4. Communications
- 5. Conclusion



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Opening Remarks

Remarque d’ouverture

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The Prime Minister confirmed that he has been speaking with a number of international partners and they are all expressing concern about Canada and our ability to handle it. s.38

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Strategic Situation Overview

Aperçu de la situation stratégique

The National Security Intelligence Advisor provided a strategical situational overview, s.39 with the weekend bringing more people to some protests. Multiple ports of entry (POEs) are now experiences blockages and “slow roll” vehicle activity has been an effective tactic. The latest tactic being used is to take children to the site to prevent police activity, as well as schools walking out to join the protest, or “slow rolls” through neighbourhoods with schools. Protesters are increasingly harnessing social media. The threat picture with respect to Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremist (IMVE) suggests that there are no collective IMVE threats of violence, though there may be some extremists within the groups. There remain concerns about lone wolf attacks and activities are being planned on social media. While tracking social media does not fall into the mandates of the agencies involved in this issues s.39

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In terms of specifics, the National Security Intelligence Advisor reported that the situation in Windsor remains very fluid with Law enforcement having begun to take action. In Ottawa we are seeing a significant escalation in the boldness of protesters. Social media continues to play an active role in the communication and organization of protesters across the country.

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Operational Updates

Mise à jour sur les opérations

The Minister of Public Safety s.39

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There appear to be two distinct movements involved in the blockades. The first is relatively harmless and happy with a strong relationship to faith communities. The second is more concerning and comprised of harder extremists trying to undermine government institutions and law enforcement. There are increasing reports of ex-military and ex-CAF members who are advising and instructing on the blockades.

In terms of specifics, the Minister of Public Safety indicated that in Fort Erie traffic appears to be moving well and is starting to disperse. In Emerson and Coutts there are a decreasing number of vehicles on side and despite blockages there are allowances for commercial trade. There appears to be a lack of a plan in Ottawa, with the Chief of Ottawa Police Service (OPS) having yet to approve the plan developed with the RCMP and OPP. During the discussion, confirmation was obtained that the OPS Chief of police accepted the plan and the Commissioner of the RCMP agreed to be able to provide additional details of the plan at the next call.

In Windsor, at approximately 11:00 hrs, police had to stall enforcement because of additional protesters on site. The most recent intelligence indicates there are approximately 500 protesters onsite right now, outnumbering police, and protesters are beginning to pool in adjacent parking lots. Enforcement action has begun in Windsor with ticketing and towing on Huron Church road which is the main road off the Ambassador bridge.

The Commissioner of the RCMP reported that the situation is evolving hour by hour. OPP is tracking protests in other areas including Thunder Bay and the GTA. In Windsor, notice was provided to protesters that they must cease blocking streets or face charges, but this notice needs to be followed up with enforcement actions. As of 09:00 hrs, some individuals had started to leave voluntarily but enforcement actions remain ongoing. At the Essex railway a decision was taken to remove railway equipment. At the Ambassador bridge there are over 500 protesters, no reports of injuries or arrests. Approximately 56 RCMP members are onsite along with 120 OPP members to support the Windsor Police. Following negotiations, the OPP delivered a letter signed by the Ontario Government to agree to meet protesters for constructive dialogue, contingent on the protests ending. The protesters did not accept this offer.

In Cornwall, there are 75 protesters onsite with 20-25 vehicles. Protesters are not on the bridge and traffic is moving in both directions. Police are present but there has not been a request to the RCMP for additional staff, and OPP and Akwesasne Police are on hand to support as needed.

In Ottawa, the Commissioner reported having a meeting with the OPS Chief and OPP Commissioner and noted that the mood on the ground has shifted to more hostility towards police. There are approximately 350 protesters on Parliament Hill and 400 on Wellington street with increased protest activities onsite. A number of additional convoys are reportedly travelling to Ottawa primarily from Quebec and the Sureté du Québec is monitoring this. There continue to be challenges working with the Integrated Planning Team in Ottawa around communication and decisively of the OPS Chief. Every request made by the OPS has been fulfilled with RCMP personnel exceeding the 250 agreed upon in the MOU.

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In Coutts, the number of vehicles has been reduced from 250 to 40 but the situation continues to evolve. The operation is focused on assessing risks and engagement is ongoing with the Premier and with other Government officials. CBSA is assisting with traffic at the border and temporarily suspended commercial activity as of 13:00 hrs. The situation in Coutts is unique and there are heightened risks to safety of persons including police, including indications of weapons on site.

In Emerson, the POE remains open. There are approximately 35 vehicles and 20 individuals onsite. At other POEs, including in BC and NS, seem to be under control and not impacting traffic or Port operations at this time.

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The Prime Minister asked for an update on other POEs and what is being done to prevent further disruptions. The Minister of Public Safety and President of CBSA confirmed that there is real time reporting in all critical POEs and ongoing engagement with local law enforcement. If an authority or asset gap is identified, departments remain ready to respond. Currently it remains only the three blocked POEs. There was an attempt to block the Pacific Highway but police successfully thwarted this attempt.

The Minister of Transport confirmed that he is working with agencies or authorities of strategic infrastructure including airports, POEs and rail. Discussions to date have surfaced a potential need to ensure increased law enforcement presence at critical infrastructures to dissuade further protests. Transportation of dangerous goods enforcement officers are working with the OPS on enforcing laws where vehicles may be transporting fuel without proper licensing and some tickets have been issued. The Minister confirmed that he is working with provinces on securing tow trucks and that Alberta is looking to purchase at least 2 large tow trucks. Other provinces have been offered support to facilitate purchase agreements or services relating to tow trucks but have shown interest to date. s.39

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s.39 On POEs, the Minister confirmed that he spoke to Manitoba and offered assistance and support and Manitoba indicated a sense that police were adequately managing the situations in Emerson and Winnipeg, the latter of which is seeing protests outside of their provincial legislature.

The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities provided an update on his engagement with provinces and territories s.39
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The Minister of Emergency Preparedness and President of the Queen's Privy Council indicated a report that the Deputy Mayor of Ottawa is drafting a motion to ask the Attorney General to request assistance of the CAF under the *National Defence Act*. Solicitor-Client Priv.

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Engagement Strategy

Stratégie de mobilisation

The Minister of Public Safety provided an update on potential engagement with leaders of the blockades, particularly in Ottawa, indicating that a document was shared outlining an early framework which includes the objective of de-escalating the situation and encouraging protesters to leave.s.39

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Participants discussed how engagement was attempted by the Ontario Government in Windsor last night, via a letter and how the protesters rejected the offer to engage, resulting in enforcement actions beginning this morning.s.39

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Communications

Communications

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Wrap-Up

Conclusion

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The Prime Minister confirmed that another IRG would occur on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

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Dear Commissioner Carrique:

This letter is being sent in regards to the protest activity occurring in Windsor and restricting access to the Ambassador Bridge, which must end. The Government[s] of Ontario [and Canada] is/[are] proposing that a meeting occur within an agreeable time period, between a select group of protest leadership and representatives of the province [and federal government] to allow their issues to be heard.

To schedule this meeting and move forward with our offer, all protesters must leave the protest site immediately, denounce all unlawful activity and encourage a period of quiet. This means no unlawful, unpeaceful, unsafe protest activity can occur between the time of acceptance of this offer until the meeting takes place.

Please share this with the protest leadership and note that an immediate agreement to meet is required. Any time delay in acceptance will negate it. We anticipate and look forward to constructive dialogue.

Sincerely,

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Proposal: Trucker Protest Engagement

Objective: De-escalate and encourage people to leave unlawful protests

Principles:

- Coordinate effectively with police, based on their independent role and considerations (see Annex).
- Provide a venue for the airing of grievances without compromising the government’s position.

Process

- Upon agreement to the proposal, provide police liaison in writing a commitment to government engagement at a later date that could be shared in meetings with protest leaders.
- Police liaison to bring to ongoing engagement with protest leaders, seek rapid response.
- The proposal would be: have supporters outside of the leadership group leave the protest immediately and denounce unlawful activity nationally. Encourage a period of quiet (no unlawful, unpeaceful, unsafe protests) between time of acceptance of the proposal until the meeting takes place, and you will be heard.
- After the meeting takes place, the leadership should leave the city.

Letter Signatory and Representation Options

- Recommended: Senior official(s) from the federal [and provincial] government representing public order.
- Independent representative of the federal government, e.g. former Minister.
- Political representation: unelected official from PMO or Minister.
- A lead, impartial, liaison expert to be present to ensure constructive communication occurs.

Considerations

- Engagement creates room for peaceful disbursement, before enforcement action is taken, and supports enforcement by evidencing other options have been tried.
- Communications: the government would need to be prepared to announce or acknowledge that the offer of a hearing has been made.

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Annex: General Police Considerations – from OPP

- Demonstrator Considerations
 - Identifying leaders who are compliant and have the ability to lead people from the protest.
 - Police liaison, such as the PLT, play a key role in helping organisers, at the local level, identify these people and aid them in keeping the protests lawful, peaceful and safe if that is the organisers’ goal. During this period police focus on conducting law enforcement, whenever possible and practicable, to re-assure the general public and protesters.
- Governmental Considerations
 - **Police are unable to solve the underlying issues.** There is very limited capacity for police to solve this situation, without some movement by government to allow demonstrators to have a “win” of sorts.
 - Recent rail line blockades and pipeline protests saw face to face meetings with government officials **providing an exit strategy** for the majority of demonstrators, which left the fringe/extremist elements isolated with diminished support.
 - While it may not provide an immediate solution and may ultimately be a check box of sorts, it creates a much better operational climate for the majority to move on and police to deal with criminality from fringe elements.
 - During this period it is also an excellent time to deploy police liaison resources in sufficient numbers to talk to protest participants about the potential consequences of their actions, identify the leaders of the movement and their motivations, while providing time and space to plan, if required.
- Exit Strategy Considerations
 - Explore non-policing conflict resolution options - Any enforcement action will likely result in sympathetic protests/blocks of roads.
 - A meeting with government officials could assist. Liaison officers could provide proof (email?) to leaders that if they denounce ongoing actions they will meet with government officials. Have police issue warnings that anyone left demonstrating unlawfully, unpeacefully or unsafely will be arrested and or charged.
- Success for Police
 - **Local issues may have national or international impacts** – if enforcement is not done in a thoughtful manner there may be larger impacts elsewhere
 - Set demonstrators up for success
 - Ensure to keep police leaders informed
 - **Provide proactive messaging to control policing narrative** – throughout the cycle of conflict
 - **Exhaust all ability for effective communication** with demonstrators prior to enforcement

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IRG TRACKER

Track 1

Item	Details	Lead	Supporting Department	Status	Documents Received	Notes
1. Identify a clear leadership table within the federal government to establish clear information sharing	Establish regular Deputy Minister calls	NSIA to set up daily DMOC calls		Ongoing. First daily meeting Feb 11		Daily DMOC schedule established.
	Circulate daily PCO-NSIA led sit-reps (including information from all federal partners)	PCO/NSIA				
2. Collaborate with local and provincial police forces to identify resourcing needs, share with DM Table, especially in instances where the needs cannot be met, and outline where federal resourcing can fill gaps		RCMP				
3. Establish a mandate and terms for a potential lead federal negotiator, who this could be, who he or she would engage, etc	- Terms of Reference for engagement - Potential federal interlocutor	PS			 Ambassador Bridget Blockade Let  Engagement Proposal rev.docx	Preliminary proposal on engagement with protesters, including police advice and considerations.
		NSIA				

Item	Details	Lead	Supporting Department	Status	Documents Received	Notes
6. Confirm protection of critical infrastructure and ports of entry at greatest risk	Engage TC, PS, CBSA to leverage existing information sources	PS	TC CBSA	Development of evergreen list in progress.	 COVID Mandate Protest Map National  PS-SP-#4219079-v3-NCSE - CID - Conv  Protest POE List POJ Engagement 202202  Background on Ambassador Bridge B	- Stand up vigilance at key points - TC engaged with airports, railways; CBSA do the same re bridges - CBSA requires concrete plans for the 11 commercial POEs - Can reroute some traffic but hard to reroute all without major disruption - CBSA to follow up with each POE to make sure that they have enough resources on hand or identify additional needs - Need to identify critical infrastructure aside from POEs (i.e. bridges, tunnels, power plants, communications equipment, etc.)
7. Further define and elaborate on potential consequences for protestors	Potential TC measures under the <i>Canada Transportation Act</i> (e.g., AMPs, fines, etc.) Leverage potential/upcoming provincial measures (e.g., truck seizures, applying financial penalties, prosecuting criminal actions)	TC	PS DoJ PCO CPIC IRCC			- Comms – refining this narrative as we can clearly shape the specifics for Ontario Solicitor-Client Priv. - RCMP talking with Chiefs of Police next week on changes of legislation and approaches to protest acts (i.e. AB critical infrastructure defense act) Solicitor-Client Priv.
8. Explore potential immigration measures	Assess options for border/immigration measures and mobility consequences.	IRCC	CBSA DOJ RCMP PS		 Border Measures and Mobility Consequence	s.38

Track 2

Item	Details	Lead	Supporting Department	Status	Documents Received	Summary
Assess utility of other tools that do not require invoking the Emergencies Act (e.g. National Defence Act)				Solicitor Client Priv.		s.39 Solicitor-Client Priv.
Scenario Planning		PS	PCO-EMS DOJ RCMP DND TC CBSA			Identify operational scenarios, what are the roles of various departments, what authorities exist, and what authorities may be required to fill gaps.
Objectives for Track 2 invocation – WHAT are we seeking to achieve from EA to clearly scope the operational plan						

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Item	Details	Lead	Supporting Department	Status	Documents Received	Summary
Emergencies Act operationalization	IDTF	PCO	DND CAF RCMP NSIA			Solicitor-Client Priv.
						s.38s.38 - Develop tactical operational plan. - What would it mean if we had to use CAF under the EA? - What would a generic CAF package would look like? What training would they need? - How does this get communicated? - Gold/silver/bronze team in place to assess the EA in a RCMP leadership space - We need scenario planning to show how bad things could actually get - What are the federal assets needed to deal with the scenarios, how would we deal with them, the

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Item	Details	Lead	Supporting Department	Status	Documents Received	Summary
						authorities needed, the worst-case scenario in terms of doing this track 2 work

Additional Documents:

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Blockades - Feb 11, 2022.docx
- 

Feb 12 AM Sit Rep.docx
- 

Ambassador Bridge - Impacts.docx

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